

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15137 122309Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /081 W  
-----067044 130430Z /20

R 121604Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9339  
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
USMISSION USUN NY

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 15137

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, EG  
SUBJ: AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF (A) STATE 208244, (B) CAIRO 14721,

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MEMBER OF FORNMIN'S CABINET SEP 12  
CONCERNING LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONF, POLCOUNS HAD OPPORTUNITY  
OBTAIN READING OF CURRENT GOE VIEWS OF NIGERIAN ROLE IN  
AFRICA. MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

2. NIGERIAN GOVT IS ATTEMPTING PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH  
ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM ONE OF CONTINENT'S LARGEST, RICHEST AND  
MOST POPULACE COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, DUE TO LACK OF PRESTIGIOUS  
LEADER AND INTERNAL INSTABILITY, INCLUDING CHRISTIAN-  
MUSLIM AND TRIBAL CONFLICTS, IT DOES NOT IN FACT EXERT  
MUCH INFLUENCE IN AOU COUNCILS. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST RADICALS  
BELIEVE IT IS ON MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE SIDE EVEN WHEN, AS DURING  
ANGOLAN AND ZAIRE CRISES, IT HAD ATTEMPTED TAKE MIDDLE ROAD.  
MUCH MORE INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN LEADERS ARE NYERERE AND JAUNDA,  
ESPECIALLY NYERERE. NIGERIA WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK FOR AFRICA,  
BUT UNTIL IT ESTABLISHES INTERNAL STABILITY AND STRENGTH  
AND LEADER OF STATURE EMERGES, NIGERIA WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE

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AFRICAN LEADER.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE VIEWS PROBABLY CLOSE TO THOSE OF FORMIN  
FAHMY (WHO TENDS TO DENIGRATE COMPETITORS) AND DO NOT NECESS-  
ARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF AFRICAN SPECIALISTS WITHIN MFA.  
LATTER HAVE ON OCCASION EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR NIGERIAN  
ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW MIDDLE ROAD COURSE IN RADICAL-MODERATE

CONFLICTS OVER EGYPT'S ROLE AS LEADING MODERATE AND TAKING  
OF SIDES WITH SUCH LEADERS AS MOBUTO.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 208244, 77 CAIRO 14721  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Subject:** AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA  
**TAGS:** PINR, PGOV, NI, EG, XA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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